

The Office of Titles 'T O' Perfin found on the Stamp Statute Duty Stamps of Victoria 1876-1877

Dave Elsmore & Russell Turner

The TO took cash up to 1876 when the new regulations under The Stamp Statute 1869 came in. For the 12 months after that they punctured the stamps TO ... after all the stamps were introduced as a security measure to stop theft / fraud so it makes sense you don't want people stealing them. After 1877 they just used the normal fee stamps without any perfin, just like the courts and other places.

It must have been a tedious job for the poor junior who was doing it. You will see on some he (no women allowed) just puts the perfin on at any angle, all over the place.



We have access to these stamps because people have taken them out of the titles office archives over the years.

From what I am told, this was done by people going in to look up titles and when unattended they would rip the stamps off the documents.

I have never seen a Titles Office cancel on a full document, or even on piece, so am unable to state if this was a cancelling device or not so I can only assume that the people who took the stamps also soaked them off.

The TO perfin has not been reported on the ½d, 1d or 3d. We can only guess why the lower values aren't there:

1. The thieves over the years supposed that only the high values were worth stealing
2. The rates used at the Titles Office were not down to the penny
3. Some are around but not reported just yet. Having never visited the Titles Office we am unable to know if these three values were ever used on documents or not.

The following few pages documents most of the recorded values





Within 3 months of use the pins on the 'O' began to break at 4 O'Clock and a blind pin at 11 O'Clock. The 'T' also suffered pin loss along with blind pins as can be seen.















1876.

VICTORIA.

NOTICE AND RULES UNDER THE "STAMP STATUTE 1869."

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

NOTICE AND RULES UNDER THE "STAMP STATUTE 1869."

At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne, the twelfth day of June 1876.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Governor

Sir James McCulloch
Mr. MacPherson
Mr. Kerferd

Mr. Ramsay
Dr. Madden
Mr. McLellan.

WHEREAS by the 4th section of the *Stamp Statute 1869* (No. 355) it is provided, that from and after such time or respective times as the Governor in Council shall from time to time by notice published in the *Government Gazette* appoint, the following fees, or such of them as shall be specified in such notice, or respective notices, shall be collected by stamps, namely:—All fees payable to the Crown or the Consolidated Revenue of Victoria, or to the several officers of Government in the several courts and offices in respect of matters or things to be done or performed under certain enactments specified in the schedule to the said Act; and all fees payable to the Crown or the Consolidated Revenue of Victoria, or to any officers of the Government under any other enactment which the Governor in Council shall by any such notice in the *Government Gazette* direct to be collected by stamps: And whereas by the 5th section it is provided that all or any stamps to be used under the said Statute shall be impressed or adhesive as the Governor in Council shall from time to time direct: And whereas by the 8th section it is provided that the Governor in Council may from time to time frame such rules as may appear to be necessary for carrying out the said Statute and for regulating the use of stamps thereunder, and particularly for prescribing the application thereof to documents from time to time in use or required to be used for the purpose of such stamps and for insuring the proper cancellation of adhesive stamps and keeping accounts of such stamps and for the issuing of stamps in exchange for spoiled stamps: And whereas by an Order in Council, bearing date the fourth day of April A.D. 1871, a notice was given and rules and regulations were framed under the provisions of the said Statute: Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, doth by this present Order direct that, on and after the first day of July 1876 the following Notice and Rules shall be substituted and be in force in lieu of the aforesaid notice, rules, and regulations:—

1. *Notice of time at which fees are to be collected by stamps.*—Fees shall be collected by stamps under the said Statute on and after the first day of July One thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

2. *Enactments under which the fees are to be so collected.*—Subject to the exceptions hereinafter provided all fees under the enactments specified in the subjoined list shall be collected by stamps—

An Act to make provision for the better administration of Justice in the Colony of Victoria, 15th Victoria, No. 10.

The Geelong Gas Company's Act 1858, No. 57.

An Act to incorporate a Company to be called "The Castlemaine Gas Company" and for other purposes, No. 71.

An Act for supplying the District of the Ovens with water, No. 101.

An Act to incorporate a Company to be called "The Bendigo Gas Company" and for other purposes, No. 102.

An Act to incorporate a Company to be called "The Collingwood Fitz Roy and District Gas and Coke Company," and for other purposes, No. 103.

The Beechworth Water Works Act 1860, No. 105.

An Act to exempt certain contracts from the law of partnership, No. 179.

The Companies Statute 1864, No. 190.

The Banks and Currency Statute 1864, No. 194.

The Statute of Evidence 1864, No. 197, and the amending Act, No. 443.

The Instruments and Securities Statute 1864, No. 204, and the amending Acts, Nos. 280, 283, and 313.

Real Property Statute 1864, No. 213, and the amending Acts, Nos. 318, 378, and 433.

The Dog Act 1864, No. 229.

The Patents Statute 1865, No. 240, and the amending Act, No. 432.

The Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Statute 1865, No. 246.

Friendly Societies Statute 1865, No. 254, and the amending Act, No. 329.

The Aliens Statute 1865, No. 256.

The Public Health Statute 1865, No. 264.

The Justices of the Peace Statute 1865, No. 267, and the amending Act, No. 319.

The Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Statute 1864, No. 268.

The Juries Statute 1865, No. 272, and the amending Act, No. 445.

Insolvency Statute 1865, No. 273.

Insolvency Statute 1871, No. 379, and the amending Act, No. 411.

Common Law Procedure Statute 1865, No. 274, and the amending Act, No. 290.

The Electoral Act 1865, No. 279.

Mining Statute 1865, No. 291, Part II. Administration of Justice.

Transfer of Land Statute, No. 301, and the amending Acts, Nos. 317, 353, and 402.

The Australian Alliance Insurance Company's Act 1867, No. 305.

Lunacy Statute, No. 309, and the amending Act, No. 342.

The Legislative Council amendment Act 1868, No. 334.

An Act to amend the "Coroners Statute 1865," No. 338.

County Court Statute 1869, No. 345.

The Copyright Act 1869, No. 350.

The Victoria Racing Club Act 1871, No. 398.

The Mining Companies Act 1871, No. 409.

The South Melbourne Gas Company's Act 1872, No. 426.

The Life Assurance Companies Act 1873, No. 474.

Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873, No. 477.

The Building Societies Act 1874, No. 493.

No. 20.

3. *Exceptions.*—All fees under the said enactments not of right payable into the Consolidated Revenue of the colony of Victoria.

4. *Stamps to be adhesive.*—Stamps to be used under the Statute shall be adhesive.

5. *All fees to be paid in stamps.*—Save as hereinbefore excepted, every fee payable under any of the said enactments shall be paid by stamps affixed as hereinafter provided to some paper or document having reference to that in respect of which the fee is payable.

6. *Documents to be stamped.*—Stamps for fees payable in respect of the several matters specified in the first column of the schedule hereto shall be affixed to the corresponding documents specified in the second column of the schedule hereto.

7. *Affixing of stamps in other cases.*—Stamps for every other fee payable under any of the said enactments shall be affixed to a short written or printed note or præcipe asking for that in respect of which the fee is payable, and signed by or for the person by whom the fee is payable; and the heads of the several departments of the public service in which fees under the said enactment are respectively payable shall from time to time prescribe the form in which such notes or præcipes are to be taken and preserved.

8. *Cancellation of stamps.*—Before anything is done, or permitted to be done, in respect of that for which a fee is payable by stamps, the stamps by which the fee is paid shall be cancelled in manner provided by section 12 of the Statute.

9. *Record of cancellation.*—The heads of the several departments in which fees payable by stamps shall be collected shall cause an exact account or record to be kept of the number and denomination of all stamps cancelled by the officers of their several departments, and of the dates of such cancellation.

10. *Allowance for spoiled stamps.*—Where, through any mistake or inadvertence, any stamp has been used and cancelled unnecessarily by any officer in the public service, the head of the department may certify in writing signed by him that such stamp is fit subject for allowance, and on production of the certificate and the stamp to which it relates, the Minister administering the Act may issue a stamp or stamps of equivalent value to the applicant.

SCHEDULE.

COLUMN 1. Matter in respect of which Fee is payable.	COLUMN 2. Document to which the Stamp taken in payment of the Fee is to be affixed.
Document entered, filed, lodged, or sealed. Writ, summons, order, rule, report, warrant, decree, or other document issued or sealed. Recognizance. Certificate given. Bill of costs taxed. Case stated. Office copy. Certificate of title under Act No. 301.	Document entered, filed, lodged, or sealed. Writ, summons, order, rule, report, warrant, decree, or document issued or sealed. Recognizance. Certificate. Bill taxed. Case stated. Office copy. The duplicate certificate (<i>i.e.</i> , the part given out to the public). The transfer, mortgage, charge and lease kept in the register-book. The deed or instrument.
Transfer, mortgage, charge, and lease (including extra memorials). Deed or instrument registered under the Act No. 213 (including fee for extra folios). Registration, elector's right.	Certificate of registration, elector's right.

And the Honorable Robert Ramsay, Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

ROB. WADSWORTH,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.